

*not used*

C E R T I F I C A T E

May 1, 1946

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached document is a true copy of an affidavit purporting to be sworn and subscribed to by Richard P. Adams, Corporal, USMC, at Great Lakes, Illinois, on the 12th day of February, 1946.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that it was copied from an original in my custody as Chief, Criminal Registry Division, Legal Section, GPQ, SCAP, Tokyo, Japan.

/s/ Charles A. Reinhard  
CHARLES A. REINHARD  
Lt. Col. F. A.  
Chief of Criminal Registry  
Division, Legal Section



## For The WAR CRIMES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department -- War Department

United States of America

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 In the matter of failure to provide proper living conditions for prisoners of war at Feng Tai (phonetic) Prison Camp near Pekin China, between approximately 20 May 1945 and 12 July 1945. \*  
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Perpetuation of Testimony of  
 Richard F. Adams. Cpl. USMC.

Taken at:

U.S. Naval Hospital, Great Lakes, Ill.

Date:

30 January 1946

In the Presence of:

Charles A. Lewis, Capt. Inf.

Questions by:

Charles A. Lewis, Capt. Inf.

- Q. State your name, rank, serial number and permanent home address.  
 A. Richard P. Adams, Cpl., USMC, 1214 Sycamore St., Niles, Michigan.
- Q. State the date and place of your birth and of what country are you a citizen?  
 A. I was born on March 23, 1923, at Niles, Michigan and I am a United States citizen.
- Q. What educational institutions have you attended and for how long?  
 A. I am a graduate of Niles Central High School, class of January 1941.
- Q. At what places were you employed as a civilian and what was the nature of your occupation?  
 A. I was never employed as a civilian on a full time basis.
- Q. What is your marital status?  
 A. I am single.
- Q. Have you recently been returned to the United States from overseas?  
 A. Yes. I arrived in the United States approximately 12 October 1945.
- Q. Were you a prisoner of war?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. At what places were you held and state the approximate dates?  
 A. I was captured on Wake Island on 24 December 1941 and held in a transit camp on the Island until 12 January 1942. I was then transported to Whu Sung (phonetic) Prison Camp near Shanghai, China, arriving there 25 January 1942. On 5 December 1942, I was moved to Kang Wan Prison Camp, also near Shanghai, and stayed there until approximately 10 May 1945. I was then moved to Feng Tai (phonetic) Prison Camp near Pekin, China, arriving approximately 20 May 1945. On approximately 12 July 1945, I was moved to Hakodate Prison Camp No. 2 near Hakahora, Hokkaido Island, Japan, arriving approximately 15 July 1945. I was liberated from this camp on V-J Day.
- Q. What unit were you with when captured?  
 A. I was with the 1st Defense Battalion, 3-inch Anti-Aircraft Group, USMC.
- Q. Did you witness any atrocities or mistreatment of American citizens at any time?  
 A. Yes. I observed the mistreatment of American prisoners of war and civilian internees through failure to provide proper living conditions at Feng Tai (phonetic) Prison Camp near Pekin, China.
- Q. Please relate the details.



- A. The mistreatment consisted largely in failure of the Japanese camp commander to authorize the issuance of the proper supplies to safe-guard the health of the prisoners when these supplies were easily and obviously available to him. In other words, it was a matter of neglect with reference to sanitary and hygienic matters which I believe caused or hastened the death of some (RPA) Americans. We were housed in a brick warehouse built like a hangar. In my compartment, about 300 United States Marine prisoners of war were housed and the entire building housed between 1000 and 1100 men. The latrine, which was located just outside the building, consisted only of three open ditches with logs thrown across them for standing or squatting. Between the 2200 hours and 0600 hours, the 300 men in my compartment were not permitted to use this outdoor latrine and were compelled to get along with five or six square motor oil cans inside the compartment. Many of the 300 men had dysentery or diarrhea, and the only sanitary measure for protecting us from the flies which infested the latrine, was a little sand thrown each morning over the latrine ditches and on rare occasions, a little lime thrown into them. The flies had free access to our quarters since there was no screening on the doors. They would stay around the latrine ditches during the day and, at night, would come inside the quarters which were warmer than outdoors because of the body heat of the prisoners of war. They would crawl all over us, even walking across our lips. No effort of any kind was apparently made by the Japanese to provide screening despite repeated requests made by American medical officers. The only answer that was given by Japanese officers to the request was that they would "do what they could". I am sure on my own observation that material was available for protecting us from the flies. The Japanese had a supply of bed canopies made of mosquito netting. These were like tents which were made in sizes to cover varying numbers of bunks, running from one to five. The Japanese guards and officers used these and I saw an additional supply of canopies piled in a warehouse which were never put to any use at all. I am not sure that there would have been enough to cover our bunks in the way that the Japanese used them, but certainly there was sufficient cloth netting material to use in covering the doors of our quarters.
- Q. Did many of the prisoners die during the time you were at this camp?
- A. No, but the physical condition of the men became progressively worse the longer we stayed. Those already ill became more ill and an increasing number contracted the dysentery or diarrhea. A few who apparently recovered from those ailments suffered recurrences. A few men also contracted malaria.
- Q. Did the Japanese provide protection from mosquitoes for the men in the hospital?
- A. Yes. Nettings were used for the doors and windows.
- Q. Do you have anything further to add regarding improper conditions at this camp?
- A. Except for the condition that I have described, this camp was no worse than the others in which I was confined. The food for instance was reasonably adequate because, although the Japanese provided only cooked rice and water or tea, the Red Cross was sending bulk foods such as beans, beef and flour which the Japanese permitted to reach us.
- Q. Who do you feel was responsible for the improper conditions you have described?
- A. The camp commandant.
- Q. Can you name and describe him?
- A. He was a colonel named Oteri (phonetic). He was approximately five feet, one inch in height, heavy set and age about fifty years. His hair was grey and his head was bald in the center.



He had a grey-black handle bar mustache which hid most of his features, but I could see that his face was full and that his eyebrows were unusually bushy for a Jap. He spoke no English so far as I know.

Q. Do you have anything further to add about Col Oteri?

A. He was in charge of the camp during my entire period at Feng Tai Prison Camp, commanding all of the 1000 or 1100 prisoners of war and civilian internees, who I have said were housed in the large barracks building. His lack of personal interest in the well being of these prisoners is indicated by the fact that during my approximately seven weeks in this camp, he came around for inspection only twice, and one of these inspections was for "shake-down" purposes. He seemed to depend almost entirely upon his subordinates for information on conditions in the camp. This same colonel had been with us at Kang Wan (phonetic) Prison Camp, but sanitary conditions were not so bad there.

Q. Do you have anything further to add?

A. No.

/s/ Richard P. Adams  
Richard P. Adams, Cpl. USMC

State of: Illinois )  
County of: Lake ) SS

I, Richard P. Adams, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ Richard P. Adams  
Richard P. Adams, Cpl. USMC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of February 1946.

/s/ C. B. Tolle, Lt.(MC)USN  
Auth. Act. Apr. 9, 1943  
USNF, Great Lakes, Illinois  
(Notary Public)

My commission expires:

#### CERTIFICATE

I, Charles A. Lewis, Capt. Inf., certify that Richard P. Adams, Cpl., USMC, personally appeared before me on 30 January 1946 and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

Place: Chicago, Ill.  
Date: 18 February 1946

/s/ Charles A. Lewis  
(Signature)  
Captain, Inf.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY  
/s/ Lindsay Williamson  
LINDSAY WILLIAMSON  
Capt. JAGD